



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/581,709	10/10/2000	Joseph Wayne Forler	RCA88796	4780

7590 05/21/2004

Joseph S Tripoli
Thomson Multimedia Licensing Inc
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08540

EXAMINER

SHANG, ANNAN Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2614

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/581,709

Applicant(s)

FORLER, JOSEPH WAYNE

Examiner

Annan Q Shang

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2000.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/06, 16, 00.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Collings (5,828,402)** in view of **Anderson et al (6,005,631)**.

As to claim 1, note the **Collings** reference figures 1 and 2, discloses method and apparatus for selectively blocking audio and video signals and further discloses an apparatus comprising:

the claimed "a data receiver for receiving a signal channel selections..." is met by Remote Transmitter (RT) 71 (figs. 1,2, col. 11, line 65-col. 12, line 43 and col. 16, lines 19-28), which transmits user channel selections to IR Receiver 65 of Apparatus (App) 20;

the claimed "a signal input for receiving a program signal associated with one of a plurality of signal channels..." is met by Audio/Video Inputs 32 (col. 3, lines 31-38), which receives program signals associated with one of a plurality of signal channels from Broadcaster 26 via a television tuner or cable converter, and selects one of the channels in responses to RT 71;

the claimed "a signal output..." is met by RF Out 34 (col. 3, lines 38-44), which outputs the program signal on the screen of television 22;

the claimed "an auxiliary data decoder..." is met by Data Slicer (DS) 40 (col. 3, lines 2-16, col. 8, lines 28+34 and lines 51-54), which detects embedded data including closed caption "program related information" included in each program signal; and

the claimed "a processor operatively connected to said data receiver, said signal input, said signal output and auxiliary data decoder..." is met by Microprocessor (MPU) 42 (col. 8, lines 35-50), which controls the Output signal 34, in a predetermined manner, based on stored user blocking preferences in RAM 46 and 58 (col. 10, lines 30-45 and col. 11, lines 38-56), to reduce user access to the program signal when MPU 42 receives via RT 71, a viewer particular or predetermined channel selections, which also includes monitoring switches from one channel to other channel to watch other programs (col. 10, lines 30-45).

Collings fails to explicitly teach a remote controller with a navigation feature that enables the user to select a predetermined sequence of signal selections.

However, note **Anderson et al** reference figures 5 and 10, disclose methods and apparatus for organizing and searching an electronic programming guide with parental control features (fig. 5, Rating R, PG, etc., col. 9, line 37-42 and col. 10, lines 49-53) and Remote Control 126, with Channel CH (up) and CH (down) features that enables the user to select a sequence of channel(s), such as WXIA 14, HBO 15, CMAX, etc., (figs. 5, 10, and col. 9, lines 13-31).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Anderson into the system of Collings to provide a remote control with navigation features that enables the user to perform a

sequence of channel selections as desired and furthermore to enable the parent to select a sequence of channels and control rating as desired.

As to claim 2, Collings further discloses where MPU 42 controls the Output Signal 34 in a predetermined manner base on the user stored blocking preference for at least until the program related information has been determined when MPU receives the user channel selections (col. 10, lines 30-45).

As to claim 3, Collings further discloses where the program signal is a television signal (col. 3, lines 3-11 and lines 31-36).

As to claim 4, Collings further discloses embedding plurality of encoded information, e.g., rating "digital signal packets" in the video or program signal (col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 3, col. 4, lines 11-20 and col. col. 5, lines 28-38).

As to claim 5-6, Collings fails to explicitly teach where the predetermined sequence of signal channel selections comprises a predetermined number of consecutive selections of a particular signal channel.

However, **Anderson** further teaches using RC 126 (fig. 10, lines 13-28), which enables a user to select a predetermined number of consecutive selections of a particular signal channel, using Left (L) and Right (R) features of RC 126, e.g. HBO 15, where selections of TERMINATOR 2, HOME ALONE, etc., consecutive selections of HBO 15 "a particular signal channel, is achieved using L and R features of RC 126, and further teaches WXIA 14, "a second signal channel and HBO 15 (fig. 5, col. 10, lines 54-64)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the teaching of Anderson into the system of Collings to provide a remote control with navigation features that enables the user to perform consecutive selections of a particular signal channel and other signal channels, to select programs to view as desired and further enables a parent consecutively select channels and programs to control rating as desired.

As to claim 7, Collings further teaches where the MPU 42, controls the Output Signal 34 in a predetermined manner based on user stored blocking preferences, when a predetermined channel signal channel selections is received by App-20 and a first blocking mode has been selected (col. 3, line 63-col. 4, line 9 and col. 10, lines 30-45), but fails to explicitly teach predetermined sequence of signal selections which has been discussed with respect to claim 1.

As to claims 8-10, Collings further discloses where MPU 42 is capable of providing an On Screen Display menu for allowing user selection of the first (figs. 3, 5 and col. 16, lines 19+28), restricted access On Screen Display Menu with PIN. "password" protected (fig. 5A, col. 16, lines 50-60 and col. 12, line 44-52).

As to claim 11, Collings further discloses where predetermined manner of control comprises one of blanking the video signal, replacing the video signal with an On Screen Display message (col. 3, line 57-col. 4, line 9), note that an alternative video may be provided and further teaches disabling associated closed captions (col. 20, lines 7-16)

As to claim 13, Collings further discloses where the Inputs 32 for one or more signals, such as incoming video signal 24 and, also Audio and Video Outputs of a VCR "second signal" for receiving a second program stored on the VCR "an external signal source" (col. 3, lines 31-44), and a Switching means 36 and 38 connected between the Input 24, the VCR signal inputs and RF Output 34 and MPU 42, where Switch means 36 and 38 operatively coupled to respective one of the program signals with the RF Output 34 in response to a signal selection from the user, where MPU 42 controls the RF Output signal in a predetermined manner, based on the user stored blocking preferences, to reduce user access to the RF Output signal for at least until the program related information has been determined when a new signal source selection is received (col. 3, lines 45-61 and col. 12, line 30-45).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hancock et al (6,701,523) disclose V-Chip Plus+in-Guide user interface apparatus and method for programmable blocking of television and other viewable programming, such as for parental control of a television receiver.

Sturgeon et al (6,429,879) disclose customization schemes for content presentation in a device with converged functionality.

Chapman et al (6,216,228) disclose controlling video or image presentation according to encoded content classification information within the video or image data.


Casement et al (6,144,401) disclose television schedule system with access control.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q Shang** whose telephone number is **703-305-2156**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-500pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **John W Miller** can be reached on **703-305-4795**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.

Annan Q. Shang.


JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600